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*The National Security Working Group (NSWG) provides wide-spectrum coverage of issues like the Iranian threat, missile defense, sequestration, New START, events in Syria and more. We look forward to providing this newsletter to RSC members and welcome your input throughout the 113th Congress.*

## **Our strategic nuclear deterrence is not a bargaining chip (Rep. Franks)**

President Obama gave a speech last Wednesday from the Brandenburg Gate in Berlin, Germany. He used this moment to push a dangerous plan to reduce nuclear weapons in the United States arsenal, an agenda completely antithetical to the vision of our past presidents, whose strong leadership in times of turmoil made his speech on the Eastern side of the plaza possible.

Mr. Obama announced to the world he signed new classified nuclear weapons employment guidance, essentially stating that the United States needs far fewer strategic nuclear weapons.

It also appears that the Administration is seeking to enter into these new negotiations with Russia, notwithstanding clear and unambiguous evidence that Russia is engaged in a **significant** violation of a current nuclear arms control commitment to the United States.

Russia has made it clear; no more weapons reductions without legally-binding commitments against United States missile defenses. While the Administration has been evasive about what commitments it is prepared to give to Russia, President Obama **did** make it clear that he would have more "flexibility" with Russia in his second term.

As Chairman of the Missile Defense Caucus and a senior member of the House Armed Services Committee, I intend to vigorously oppose any and all attempts by this administration to lessen our strategic nuclear weapons deterrent or capability, whether bilaterally or unilaterally.

Of all the messages Mr. Obama could have shared from this historic site, he chose the wholly unproductive topic of further arms reductions, when the current path is already full of clear



*President Obama continued his use of nuclear weapons as a popularity bargaining chip at his Berlin speech last week.*

violations on Russia's part. Lacking a grand challenge like a communist dictatorship to address, President Obama settled for dishing out feel-good themes backed with little to no viable solutions: We must all get along, we must never discriminate, we should have less poverty and more jobs, we need to deal with climate change.

This speech was much of the same empty and ill-informed posturing we've seen from this administration. Real danger lies in using our nuclear deterrence as a popularity bargaining chip, and we must not allow more money to be spent on weakening our nuclear defenses while so many countries are ready to exploit any chink in our armor.

NSWG Contact: Ari Zimmerman, [Ari.Zimmerman@mail.house.gov](mailto:Ari.Zimmerman@mail.house.gov), 6-5536

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